

## **JUNE 21, 2001 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

The Commission approved entering into new Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Health and Human Services for staff support of the Commission's activities. Under the MOU, the Department will support the Commission over the next three years by providing services that fall into the following four categories:

**Commission Liaison:** Provide a primary staff liaison to support and be a central contact person for the Commission, who will liaison with DHHS, community partners, state representatives and other counties. This liaison will support and supervise the work of other staff and consultants serving the Commission, and be responsible for overall coordination of the planning, implementation, evaluation and administrative activities including annual budget management.

**Prepare & Manage Contracts:** DHHS staff will prepare, negotiate, coordinate and manage the terms of Commission agreements, including, but not limited to: needs/assets assessments, planning activities, funding applications, and evaluation. This will include generating annual reports and the coordination of program performance audits as required by the State Children and Families Commission.

**Coordinate Program Evaluations & Training:** DHHS will provide technical assistance and training to funded service providers to assist them in developing required outcome and performance measures; and provide analysis of outcome data as well as status reports. Epidemiology services will be provided to help plan, organize and conduct studies related to the overall evaluation of the Commission's results-oriented activities.

**Clerical & Administrative Support:** DHHS will provide the clerical and general administrative support necessary to carry out its functions, including computer support, and in doing so will maintain the records and files for all Commission business and retain same for three (3) years after the Commission's final payment to DHHS under this agreement.

The primary staff assigned to support the Commission are: Don Ferretti, Coordinator (530).889.6751 [dferretti@placer.ca.gov](mailto:dferretti@placer.ca.gov), Nancy Baggett, Staff Services Analyst (530) 889.6753 [nbaggett@placer.ca.gov](mailto:nbaggett@placer.ca.gov) and Michelle Fernandez, Epidemiologist (530) 889.7369 [Mfernand@placer.ca.gov](mailto:Mfernand@placer.ca.gov). Additional services of the County of Placer will be coordinated through DHHS on an as needed basis.

### **CONTRACTS APPROVED**

The Commission approved the "scope of work" and budgets for nineteen (19) contracts With organizations who will receive funding from the recent Request for Results process. Seven additional contracts will be approved at the Commission's July 19 meeting.

## **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TAHOE CITY RECEIVES FUNDS**

When the First Baptist Church application to provide an array of services for the 0-5 population and their families came before the Commission in April, the Commission asked for clarifying information and deferred their decision. The information was provided to the Commission along with support from the Children's Collaborative of Tahoe Truckee. With this information and support from the CCTT, the Commission approved funding for the First Baptist Church in the amount of \$104,000.

## **EMPOWERMENT EVALUATION**

The Commission approved a novel evaluation strategy that will involve all of its funded "partners" (as well as those who care about 0-5 and their families). The evaluation of Prop. 10 funded programs is quintessential as it is the achievement of results that will determine our success not just how many programs are funded. The Empowerment Evaluation model adopted by the Commission differs from the traditional evaluation as follows:

### **Traditional Evaluation**

Typically, evaluations involve an "outside evaluator" who collects the data, reviews the project or program and prepares a report that is reviewed after the fact. In most cases, stakeholders or beneficiaries play a passive role, providing information but not participating in the evaluation itself. The process is linear, with little or no feedback to the people involved in the project.

### **Empowerment Evaluation**

The Commission envisions a participatory process where people see themselves at the center of things. We believe that this model will not only fulfil the bureaucratic requirements of Proposition 10 but also help to develop the capacity of the Commission, its partners, beneficiaries and community stakeholders to use data (both deficit and strength based) to assess progress and take action. This Empowerment Evaluation process is much more circular. More of a "systems thinking" approach.

## **COMMISSION VACANCY**

There is a vacancy on the Commission and applications are being accepted through August 3, 2001. An application can be obtained by contacting Melinda Harrell (530) 889.6772 [mharrell@placer.ca.gov](mailto:mharrell@placer.ca.gov). The Commission requested that it two advisory committees assist with recruitment. The advisory committees are made up of individuals from the Greater Collaborative and the Children's Collaborative of Tahoe Truckee.